

WORLD'S FAIR DRAMA.

GATHERING OF THE CLANS AND DISCUSSION IN THE HOUSE.

Senator Sawyer introduces a bill for the suppression of lotteries, fine and imprisonment for sending or receiving lottery letters.

(By Special Wire from the Capital.)

The widely advertised drama, "The World's Fair," gave a first performance to-day in the Hall of Representatives. The Gilbertian and Sullivanian air of mystery which has been thrown about this play excited a remarkable amount of interest in it. Even more wonderful and mystifying than all was the fact that the managers of this production had succeeded in freely advertising it in the said and solemn Congressional Record, which never before had advertised anything more hilarious. It was not even known to what division of the drama it would belong. Would it be tragedy, comedy, comedy-drama, pastoral, melodrama, farce, that latest monstrosity of the drama, the farce-comedy? These questions were eagerly asked, but no one could answer them. Plausible arguments in favor of each class were advanced, and as the day for the first performance drew near the interest grew simply intense. Those in possession of the secret assumed an air of wisdom and said nothing. It is remarkable how much interest may be created by that simple process.

The unusual length of the play, the "World's Fair," excited much comment. It was announced that the time required for the performance would be at least two days, and might even extend to double that time. It reminded one of the Chinese plays, that run for about three weeks.

Then, again, it was to be performed in the daytime, as was the case with the Elizabethan drama, when barns and open-tin courts formed the theatres. As in those times there was to be no extensive stage, nor elaborate scenery. In those times boards with a few painted castles, "this is a road," answered all purposes. Except that the surroundings of the new play were to be more elegant and beautiful, they were of no more theatrical value than the primitive surroundings of the days of the Virgin Queen.

Then the name, the "World's Fair," was of itself suggestive of mystery. Would it be anything like the great fairs of the middle ages? Would it be a modern representation of "Vanity Fair," as described in Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress"? Would it, and here society laughed itself, would it be like those lovely fairs given in aid of the dear, delicate, intellectual combats between such eminent scientists as Professors Sullivan and Kilrain.

When the hour set for the beginning of the performance arrived the galleries overlooking the scene were filled with a throng of people of all classes and conditions thrilled with the delight of anticipated pleasure. The public galleries were not only full, but there were several large theatrical parties here from a distance, notably a large one from Chicago. It was headed by General George R. Davis, ex-Representative; Hon. Adlai E. Stevenson, ex-Assistant Postmaster-General; Dr. Rush, A. B. Hunt, ex-Congressman; McKenzie, W. K. Carlisle, Solomon Thatcher, and Messrs. Dickinson, Taylor, Cragin, Phelps. St. Louis had a much smaller party. It was composed of ex-Representative John J. O'Neill, Governor Francis Colver, J. K. Rice, J. G. Trather, Colonel Fletcher and General John B. Clark.

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Arrangements for Speaking.

The World's Fair Committee of the House met to-day and reached an agreement as to the appointment of time to speakers in the World's Fair debate. The committee has decided to allow each city two hours, one in the day and one to-morrow. Those opposing the fair will also be allowed two hours, and the chairman of the committee will be allowed one hour.

The Debate.

It was plainly apparent soon after the House met to-day that there was a fixed intention on the part of a number of Southern Democrats to oppose the World's Fair project because of the Government appropriation of \$1,500,000 provided for in the general bill.

After some routine business had been disposed of the Speaker announced that the consideration of the World's Fair bill was the regular order and recognized Mr. Candler of Massachusetts, the chairman of the committee in charge of the matter, who made a statement concerning the allotment of time for discussion by the committee. He said it was the purpose of the committee to allow one hour to-day for the discussion of the general features of the project. Each of the cities interested would also be allowed an hour to-day, with the closing hour for the opposition to present its views. To-morrow, he said, the opposition would be allowed the opening order, with an hour to each of the cities.

Mr. Mills of Texas and Mr. McMillin of Tennessee objected to calling up the bill.

Mr. Mills was not satisfied with the allotment of time in behalf of the opponents of the bill.

The Speaker said that in the absence of an arrangement the matter of recognition was not to be decided by the Speaker. Mr. Mills contended that the presiding officer should be in fairness recognize

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